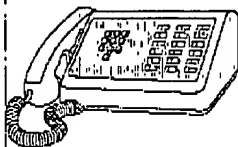


DEC 15 2003

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BRENDA A. SULLIVAN**FACSIMILE COVER LETTER**

Our Ref.:	IBMF100268000	Your Ref.:	09/539,859
Fax No. Called:	703-746-7239		
Please Deliver To:	Ex. Chuck O. Kendall U.S.P.T.O.	Art Unit Division	3743
From:	Peter W. Peterson/beb		
Date:	December 15, 2003		

We are transmitting 15 pages (Including this cover sheet)**MESSAGE:****REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION****IMPORTANT**

This entire transmission is intended for use solely by the individual or entity to which it is addressed. It may contain information which is privileged, confidential and otherwise exempt by law from disclosure. If you are not the intended recipient or an employee or agent responsible for delivering this transmission to its intended recipient, you are notified that any disclosure, dissemination, distribution or copying of this transmission is strictly prohibited. If you have received this transmission in error, please telephone us collect immediately and return this communication to us at the above address via the United States Postal Service. Thank you.

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REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995. See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Application Number	09/539,859
Filing Date	March 20, 2000
First Inventor	Paul Kuprionas
Group Art Unit	2122
Examiner Name	Chuck O. Kendall
Attorney Docket No.	FIS990239US1

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Note: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 (d) (PTO/ISB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

a. ☐ Previously submitted

- i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on _____
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
- iii. ☐ Other _____

b. ☒ Enclosed

i. ☒ Amendment/Reply 09/539859

ii. ☒ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)

iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

iv. ☐ Other _____

2. Miscellaneous


- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required).
- b. ☐ Other _____

3. Fees

The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.


- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, charge any underpayment, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 09-0458
 - i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)
 - ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)
 - iii. ☐ Other _____
- b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$ _____ (AMOUNT) enclosed
- c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Peter W. Peterson	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	31,867
Signature		Date	Dec 15, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on:

Name (Print/Type)	Barbara Browne	Date	Dec 15, 2003
Signature			

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